

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-03 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /047 W

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R 121636Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7453

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 1204

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON ETRD BB

SUBJ: CONVENTION INFORMATION

REF: STATE 136409

1. VISITORS STATISTICS ARE MAINTAINED ONLY ON HOTEL GUESTS GENERALLY WITH BREAKDOWN BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, LENGTH OF STAY, ETC. NEITHER GOB NOR PRIVATE GROUP HERE MAINTAIN SEPARATE STATISTICS ON PURPOSE OF TOURISTS' VISITS.

2. BARBADOS HAS ONLY EIGHT OR SO HOTELS WITH CONVENTION FACILITIES. INFORMAL SURVEY OF THESE ESTABLISHMENTS INDICATES THAT ABOUT 20-25 SUCH MEETINGS/CONVENTIONS ARE HELD. ASSUMING ABOUT 50 PERSONS PER GROUP, THIS WOULD MEAN ABOUT 1000-1250 SUCH PERSONS EACH YEAR. DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING MEANINGFUL FIGURES ON TOURIST EXPENDITURES HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AS PROBLEM FOR SOME YEARS NOW. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO COME UP WITH FIGURES FOR EXPENDITURES BY SUCH GROUPS BUT LOCAL HOTELIERS ESTIMATE THAT CONVENTION/MEETING ATTENDEES GENERALLY SPEND MORE THAN AVERAGE TOURIST. FIRST OF ALL, GROUPS ARE USUALLY LARGE (OVER 50 PEOPLE), OFTEN TRAVELLING ON CHARTERS OR SEMI-CHARTERS. SECONDLY, LEVEL OF AFFLUENCE OF SUCH GROUPS IS USUALLY HIGHER THAN AVERAGE TOURISTS AND, THIRDLY, THE EXEMPTION ITSELF FOR TRIP MAY STIMULATE EXTRA SPENDING.

3. TOTAL TOURISTS IN BARBADOS IN 1973 WAS 222,080, INCLUDING 74,769 AMERICANS.

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4. FYI-PRESIDENT OF LOCAL HOTEL ASSOCIATION INFORMS US THAT
CARIBBEAN HOTEL ASSOCIATION WAS AWARE OF PENDING LEGISLATION
TO EXCLUDE TAX EXEMPTION FOR MEETINGS/CONVENTIONS AND WAS
TAKING MEASURE TO MAKE ORGANQZATION'S OPPOSITION TO MEASURE
KNOWN.
WOOLLONS

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Message Attributes

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